HIV/AIDS afflicted people

1882. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people afflicted with HIV/AIDS in India as per U.N. Estimates;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure availability of medicines at affordable and cheaper rates; and

(c) the progress in the development of AIDS vaccine in the country and the estimated date of clinical trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) UNAIDS provide a country specific estimates based on the inputs provided by the National AIDS Control Organisation, Government of India. Under the National AIDS Control Programme, annual round of HIV sentinel surveillance is conducted every year. Based on this set of data, it is estimated that there are 5.1 million HIV infected persons in the country as in October, 2003.

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government to ensure the availability of medicines at affordable and cheaper rates:

1. Promoting use of generic ARV drugs in the country;

2. Reduction of Excise Duty for 10 generic anti-retroviral drugs used for treatment of AIDS.

3. Formation of working group in the Ministry of Health for dialogue with the manufacturing firms for reduction of the cost of the ARV drugs.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 4th December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to further promote and accelerate the efforts to develop

an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV subtype 'C predominant in India. Modified Vaccinia Ankara multi epitope candidates vaccine has been developed under a tripartite agreement between ICMR, NACO & IAVI. Animal toxicity and immunogenicity test are still onging & the vaccine is likely to undergo priase-l clinical trial in 2005.

Department of Bio-technology is supporting National Reference Centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for developing HIV vaccine. They have reported to have developed DNA re-combinant vaccine against HIV-1 sub-type 'C. This vaccine will be examined by the experts to decide its suitability for undergoing Phase-I clinical trial.

Re-combinant Adeno Associated Virus (AAV) vaccine in also being considered as a candidate vaccine which is undergoing phase-l clinical trial in Belgium and Germany. ICMR has planned to modify it as per the Indian requirements.

Non-survival of infants in paediatric wards of Safdarjung Hospital

1883. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Safdarjung Hospital in the month of June, 2004,142 of the 1175 infants admitted into its paediatric wards did not survive;

(b) whether doctors in emergency department do not attend patients until police register emergency cases; and

(c) the action proposed to make the public hospitals more responsible to the real needs of the people in health delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In the month of June.2004, 142 children died out of the 2527 children admitted in Safdarjung Hospital and were mosly attributed to multiple diseases like Cardio respiratory failure, severe Pneumonia, severe Dehydration and shock, severe CNS infections, etc. Further out of these 114 deaths occurred within 48 hours of admission.

(b) In Central Government Hospitals, doctors in emergency